Adjournment Motions.

President.—There are two adjournment motions from Messrs. Ikkanda Warriar and Salem. They are:—"to discuss an urgent matter of public importance occurred recently, to wit, the issue of circulars or other communications to the village officers and School masters by the authorities to carry on propaganda work against hand-spinning, use of Khadar, etc.," and "for the purpose of discussing, viz., the recent action of the authorities in issuing a number of private circulars to men working in various Government Departments to carry on propaganda work against activities accepted by the House, such as spinning and prohibition." What are the points you wish to raise, Mr. Warriar?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—The issuing of certain circulars recently by the Government against its declared policy and detrimental to the best economic interests of the State, affecting adversely its moral and material progress, and thereby creating a grave political situation in the country which may have the effect of fomenting political discontentment and endangering public peace.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—My motion is almost on the same matter. Propaganda work against activities that have been accepted by this House such as spinning and prohibition.

President.—Have you any definite information about those points?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I have definite information.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Being a very recent occurrence, we want more information.

President.—Nobody could have got definite information because the matter is confidential.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—An Hon'ble Member of this House during the course of discussion on the budget, day before yesterday made a statement, 'I have seen a signed circular with my own eyes and signed covering letters.'

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Signed circular? He said unsigned circulars.

Mr. A. B Salem.—No. He said unsigned circulars with covering letters signed.

President —Even if an Hon'ble Member said that he saw it, it is not legitimate because it is not intended to be shown to the public. It is all confidential. I do not know who made the mistake. It is not intended to be made public.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Then there is this aspect for you to consider. So and so says he has seen it. Apart from that when the pay of the officers in the Revenue Department, Parvathyams and Menons was discussed here, whether their pay should be increased or not, the Parvathyams and Menons were said to have been asked to do this extra work. Somehow or other the propganda work comes to light. He goes out to the public, he says

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to the public don't spin, don't picket liquor shops. When you say all these things to the public, it becomes public property. Those Government servants are doing this work at the request of the Government in addition to their legitimate work.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Have you copies of these circulars ? You make a statement for which there is no foundation. Does that circular say that you should not spin or that you should not picket ?

Mr. A. B. Salem.—There are circulars like that—that you should not spin.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I would like to know,

President.—If it is confidential, how could it be disclosed?

Mr. K. Ayyappan.—There is something confidential here. We want to know what is confidential.

President.—Because it is confidential, we cannot disclose it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In Bombay there are any number of these leaflets, and these leaflets are reported to come from somewhere and have been distributed. And we know the same identical circulars are also going the round here. That is the case. We know all these things.

Rao Sahib Mr. C. Matthai.—They might have come from Bombay.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Quite so; they might have come.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—Why not say that then?

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I think the Government has admitted that circulars have been issued.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—The Government never admitted.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—It was not denied at any rate and if I remember right, a minute ago an observation came from the Chair that the matter was confidential. That implies that something is going on. I saw some of the circulars myself. They are not signed by any one. If I read one, you will say it is not signed and cannot be accepted. But I say it is a fact. I say with all the emphasis that I can command from the floor of this House that you have issued seven circulars to your subordinates. For instance, I shall take the Education Department and say how this insiduous propaganda is carried on. The Inspector of Schools sends these circulars with covering letters to the Headmasters in his personal capacity. The trend of it is as follows. 'Please circulate the enclosed pamphlets among the assistants, but don't tell them that they emanated from the Government ; please also carry on propaganda as far as possible on the lines of the circulars'. Those circulars are unsigned. They are

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either typed or cyclostyled. They deal with three or four questions. One circular is about hand-spinning. There it is stated, that the hand spun yarn is very costly, the mill yarns are cheaper and more even in texture and so on. These are some of the points.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—These things cannot be true.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—These are some untruths or half-truths that you propagate.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—You may do it publicly.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I shall take another instance. In one of the circulars it is stated that 40 crores of rupees worth of clothes are woven in India. You stop there. That is a half-truth. It is silent about Rs. 63 crores worth of clothes imported every year. In addition to that also make Rs. 40 crores worth with our yarn here. The Government has accepted and declared several times in this House that they have accepted the principle of Khadar and Swadesi and they are trying their best to encourage them in all possible ways. This is one side of the picture. What do you see on the other side? The secret, sly propaganda by sending out circulars like these. I do not want to speak more. This is the situation. Here is a Government which preaches one thing in this House openly and does another thing outside the Council in a secret sly manner. We want to express our resentment against this method and tell them of the great consequences that will ensue in the country by having a Government like this.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Government has not,

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar.—I see that a big conspiracy is going on to which the Government are active participators to destroy some of our life giving cottage industries. It will worsen the economic condition of the people. Surely this is a matter of grave public importance. The fact is not denied.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I have put it on the ground that activities accepted by the Government on the floor of this House and passed by this House such as spinning and prohibition are now set at naught by the Government. Because of these matters the parents complain. We have another statement that Thaklies have been taken and thrown away on account of this propaganda. Perhaps it may be true. There was a statement in this House that Thaklies from children were taken and thrown away.

Mr. Thomas Manjuran.—I said that. There is no propaganda or anything of the kind connected with it.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am not making any allegations against the Hon'ble Member.

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President.—We are on the initial stage. We are not discussing the question at all.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I should like to say a few words on the admissibility of this. First of all, Sir, this is a vague allegation against the Government. No Member here has certified that he has seen a covering letter signed by any responsible officer of the Government in the hands of village officers. It is only alleged that some unsigned pamphlets were seen in their hands. Secondly, conceding that for arguments sake it is true, it automatically comes under confidential matters of the Government, and it is a matter then, Sir, which cannot be discussed in the House in the interests of the public. Thirdly, Sir, if, as the Hon'ble Member for the Jews suggested, there is some resemblance between the alleged circulars circulated in the State and the circulars that he says have been circulated in the Madras and Bombay Presidencies, certainly it comes under one of the clauses of section 11, relationship with the Paramount Power. Under these three grounds, I submit that this may not be admitted.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will you kindly explain that section 'Relationship with the Paramount power', and how this question comes under that section 11.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Section 11 (b) relates to "the relationship of our Government with the Paramount Power".

Mr. A. B. Salem.—In that matter I have only to submit one word. Our discussion is only this. The point that we have to raise is, our Government have accepted certain things passed in this House. If the charge can be established that our Government was withdrawing from that, in a confidential manner, then it is a serious point to be discussed. Our Government having accepted a certain position and to withdraw that position and to take an opposite position in a quiet confidential manner, is the question to be discussed. I do not want to discuss any other point in this matter. If our Government has accepted spinning, then openly, secretly and in every manner spinning must be encouraged. It would not lie in the mouth of the Government to say quietly don't encourage spinning and all that. A resolution is passed in this House and Government accepted the same and they have issued orders to the departments concerned. And so anything against spinning should not be said. This is the point that arises here. Whether you have done it under compulsion, and all those things will not be relevant inside this House. This point will be absolutely relevant.

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Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—One word, Sir, in answer to the Hon'ble Member for Jews. The grounds on which the Member supports his motion are these. The Government has accepted two principles, namely, encouragement of hand spinning and prohibition. And these two are sought to be made negatory by the propaganda now going on. My submission is, that it must be shown in the first place what the circulars are and how they go against the accepted principles. Have we accepted the principle of prohibition to be introduced immediately.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Of course, of course.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon —Prohibition is our ultimate goal but is it not to be introduced all at once.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Yes, it has been passed in Council and accepted.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Only by gradual stages. The ultimate goal is prohibition; but then we have not accepted the position that to-morrow or the day after we must bring it into force. We hope to reach that final stage gradually.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I said accepted by the House rather than accepted by the Government. Even the other day upon the question of prohibition,

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—The circulars must be read here and it must be shown that they go against the accepted principle of the Government or the House. Nothing has been done here. Unless it is shown that the effect of this propaganda will be either to stifle spinning or to work against the spirit of prohibition no object is gained by the discussion.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—Will you kindly read the circular ?

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—I have not got the thing. You say there is a circular and you rely on it. Produce that and read.

Dr. A. R. Menon.—So you contend that there is no such thing? Supposing it is confidential, is this House prohibited from discussing it?. Even granting the circular is confidential there is no rule that prohibits us from discussing a point based upon the facts contained in a confidential circular.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The Secretary to the Diwan in his reply said it is against section 11 (b), the relationship of our Government with the Paramount Power or foreign princes or States. I cannot understand the applicability of that section in this case. Are we to understand, Sir, that there is some pressure from the Paramount Power to tackle this? To say that this proposition is not in order is,

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—I did not mean that at all. The Member for the Jews said that similar circulars were circulated in Bombay, and he said these are merely copies of those

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that are being circulated there. Naturally it follows that it affects the relationship with the Paramount Power. There are circulars in both countries.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—The Member for Jews said that it must be from the Congress party. Is it against the Government, Sir? The Secretary in his anxity to support his statement relied upon the section 11 (b) of the Regulation. That section runs thus :—It shall not be lawful for the Legislative Council to consider and enact any measure relating to or affecting to *the relations of the Government with the Paramount Power or with Foreign Princes or States*". By quoting this section are we to understand that this was done under pressure from the Paramount Power, Sir?

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No, nothing.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Then why this section quoted, Sir?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—One word, Sir. I think we are all missing the point, so far as this question is concerned. The charge that is now sought to be leveiled against the Government is that the Government is carrying on a secret propaganda by issuing or causing to be issued certain circulars prohibiting certain things. The first and foremost question is whether it is a fact or not; that is the first question. If it is a fact, then you may say we are doing it under certain instructions and which instructions are prohibited from being discussed in this House. The first question is whether there is such a secret propaganda going on; that is not denied. Am I to take it that it is admitted? If it is admitted, then certain other consequences will follow. The whole thing is whether it is confidential or not. The point is, is that charge admitted? It is not denied at all. The charge is that certain circulars are found in the hands of Government servants. These are not found in the hands of laymen; wherefrom it actually emanated nobody is willing to own. The Diwan Peishkar said he had not issued. When he was asked whether he knew that certain officers of his department were actually doing it, he simply said 'I do not know'. The Secretary to the Diwan also said he does not know. He did not say anything positively. He was not also prepared to deny. What we want to know is whether there are circulars issued by Government. Whether these circulars came flying all the way from Bombay or Madras, we are not concerned with that. The only point is whether our Government has any hand in the issue of those circulars. If you can say 'no', we accept the point. There is no further question.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—No reply can be given to this, Sir. (*Loud laughter.*)

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Apart from this,

Mr. V. K. Kochunni Menon.—It really shows that you have done it.

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Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Yes.

Mr. C. Barton Wright.—I beg to submit one word, Sir.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—Cannot the Government take the position that it is a confidential thing?

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Why cannot we discuss it even if it is confidential?

President.—All that has to be said as to the admissibility has been said, I hope.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Wariar.—One word, Sir, in reply. As regards the admissibility, the Hon'ble Secretary to the Diwan said that questions of a confidential nature should not be discussed. I beg to submit that that is the very reason why we should discuss it. The only question for you to consider is whether it is a matter of public importance and whether it is urgent. There is no denying the fact, that the allegations we have made, if true, it is a matter of urgent public importance. We propose by means of this discussion to ascertain whether the Government is carrying on this secret propaganda and whether it will not affect adversely the economic condition of the State. And if this motion is allowed, we will be able to bring to the notice of the Government our view of the matter, how the non-officials of this House and the public think of this matter, and we will also be able to bring to your notice the grave consequence that will follow out of your incapacity to protect the interests of the subjects of the State by yielding to pressure from outside.

President.—The matter proposed to be discussed is in my opinion not in order. It does not, so far as I see, relate to a definite matter of urgent public importance. It is said that certain circulars issued by the Government on certain matters were seen by somebody. On such indefinite vague allegations, the adjournment motion cannot be admitted. I hence disallow the two motions.

The motions were ruled out of order.

Concluding remarks of the President.

President.—Hon'ble Members,

the official business connected with the present Budget Session was brought to a close yester-evening and, now that the question for this day is over, I consider it a fitting opportunity to make a few observations by way of concluding remarks, though the Deputy President it will be who will actually close the Session and prorogue the Council. The non-official business for the day is short, and I think it will be possible to complete the same before the Council rises for lunch. These remarks of mine should not in any way be considered as

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